

left the ship of her own accord, she always immediately fell behind, and seemed to experience great difficulty in regaining it.

Each time she left the ship she seemed to have harder work to get back, and at last, when, after a rest of nearly twenty minutes in the shelter of a heap of sail, she once more darted astern, she seemed to find her strength failing, and made a desperate attempt to reach the ship again. After struggling for some minutes, flying with a weak heavy flight, totally different from that of the day before, and all the time losing ground, she finally disappeared in the fog, and we never saw her again.

This was at about ten in the morning of April 20, off northern Virginia. — GERALD H. THAYER, *Scarborough, N. I.*

Pinicola enucleator canadensis and *Tryngites subruficollis* in Illinois. — It is seldom, indeed, that Illinois is favored with a visit from the Pine Grosbeak, there being to my knowledge only one previous published record of its occurrence in the State. Mr. Harrison Kennicott (who by the way is a nephew of Mr. Robert Kennicott, whose name is a familiar one among ornithologists) informs me by letter, in which he kindly gives me permission to publish this note, that on the 15th of February, while he was out shooting rabbits in the woods near 'The Grove,' Cook County, he came across an unfamiliar bird among a flock of Juncos, which at first sight resembled a Shrike in form. His first shot brought it down and after careful study of Nuttall's 'Manual' he identified it as a young male Pine Grosbeak. He laid it aside to send in for farther comparison but unfortunately the favorite family cat got hold of it and destroyed it completely, eating everything, even to the head and wings. I believe this may be looked upon as a straggling southern record directly attributable to the exceedingly cold wave which prevailed at that time, being the coldest weather, with a single exception, in the history of the State.

A bird which is perhaps almost as infrequently met with by the ornithologists of the State as the foregoing one is the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). It was on Sept. 18, 1898, that a head was handed me, then in a macerated condition, which I was able to identify at once as that of *T. subruficollis*. Mr. Chas. Bandler while out shooting Plover the day previous had come on a pot hunter who was roasting his game, consisting of the specimen here recorded and another one (which was mutilated beyond positive recognition, but which was believed to be the same), in his campfire and muttering because of his poor luck. The head, which was all that was available, Mr. Bandler picked up and it is now in the Field Columbian Museum collection, recorded as from Calumet Lake, Cook County, Illinois. — WM. ALANSON BRYAN, *Chicago, Ill.*

Ammodramus nelsoni in Iowa. — I am unable to find any record of the occurrence of this species in our State and it gives me pleasure to

say that on Oct. 12, 1894, a beautiful adult male accepted an invitation from my gun to join some of his cousins in my collection. The bird was shot in an old stubble field bordering the Iowa River, opposite Regens Park, Iowa City, Iowa, and is entered as number 796 in my catalogue. — PAUL BARTSCH, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) at Toronto, Ontario. — On the 22d of September, 1894, whilst I was Snipe shooting near Toronto, I noticed several small Sparrows, flitting out of the rushes before my dogs, whose manner of flight was new to me. Two of these I shot and found them to be of this species, — the first I had ever seen or heard of in the Province. During the remainder of that autumn I kept a sharp lookout for them but saw no more.

On the 10th of June, 1895, I saw a small bird flying up the shore of Lake Ontario from east to west; it was then about thirty yards high, but as it neared the marsh at the eastern end of Ashbridge's Bay, it gradually lowered as if intending to alight. However, I killed it. This was a female with ova about as large as No. 12 shot; in the autumn of that year I saw only two others though I watched for them carefully.

In 1896 I saw only one and that was on the 28th of October. This bird was in a marsh about three miles from where I have seen all the others.

During the autumn of 1897 none appeared until the 9th of October; from that date until the 29th one or more were seen every day but they never became common.

In the autumn of 1898 the first appeared on the 23d of September, when I saw one; on the 24th several were seen, and from that time until the first of October they were quite common; on some days I must have seen fifty or sixty of them.

They frequent just one spot in the marsh and are, owing to their secretive habits, rather difficult to find; when driven out of one clump of rushes they fly a few yards and drop into another, which affords them perfect concealment. I have not yet heard one of them utter a call note or a chirp of any kind.

Since I first saw them I have looked for them continually through the spring and summer months, but with the exception of the female taken on the 10th of June, 1895, I have failed to find any. — C. W. NASH, *Toronto, Canada.*

Capture of the Black Seaside Finch (*Ammodramus nigrescens*) in 1889. — Mr. Chapman's note on this species (*Auk*, XV, 1898, p. 270) states that it had not apparently been met with since its discovery in 1872, by Mr. Maynard, till found by himself in 1898. It hence gives me pleasure to report my capture of a pair near Indianola, Florida, March 3 and 5, 1889. Indianola is situated almost opposite Cocoa, on Merritt Island. While